

UNCLASSIFIED

E70

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BUENOS 04836 01 OF 02 221913Z
ACTION SCT-03

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	ACDE-00	AID-01	ARA-01	A-01	CA-02
	CCO-00	CG-00	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	COME-00	CTME-00	OASY-00
	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	DS-00	EB-01	FAAE-00	FBIE-00
	FBO-01	H-01	IMMC-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	INSE-00	LAB-01
	L-01	ADS-00	M-00	NEA-01	NRCE-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OCS-06	OIS-01	OMB-01	OPR-01	PA-02	PM-00	PRS-01
	P-01	SNP-00	SP-00	SR-00	SSO-00	SS-00	TRSE-00
	T-00	USIE-00	USSS-00	ASDS-01	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-09
	G-00	/055W					

-----5F9D9E 222025Z /38

R 221913Z JUL 94
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1114
INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM//SCCC//
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

RELEASED IN FULL

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BUENOS AIRES 004836

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, PTER, ASEC, AR
SUBJECT: MASSIVE DEMONSTRATION REPUDIATES JULY 18
AMIA BOMBING IN BUENOS AIRES
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BUENOS 04836 01 OF 02 221913Z

REF: BUENOS AIRES

SUMMARY

1. UNDER A COLD AND STEADY WINTER RAIN A MASSIVE
OUTPOURING OF HUMANITY FILLED THE HUGE "PLAZA DE LOS
DOS CONGRESOS" IN BUENOS AIRES TO REPUDIATE THE JULY 18
BOMBING OF THE HEADQUARTERS OF ARGENTINA'S JEWISH
MUTUAL ASSOCIATION (AMIA) AND EXPRESS SOLIDARITY WITH

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

THE FAMILIES OF THE GROWING NUMBER OF VICTIMS OF THE TERRORIST ATTACK. A SOLEMN AND SUBDUED PRESIDENT CARLOS MENEM JOINED LEADERS OF ARGENTINA'S JEWISH COMMUNITY, POLITICAL LEADERS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER FAITHS ON THE DAIS, BUT DID NOT ADDRESS THE CROWD. RUBEN BERAJA, PRESIDENT OF THE ARGENTINE DELEGATION OF JEWISH ASSOCIATIONS (DAIA), AN UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION OF ARGENTINA'S JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS THAT SHARED ITS HOME WITH AMIA, SPOKE ELOQUENTLY OF SUFFERING AND SOLIDARITY, WHILE TAKING ARGENTINA'S GOVERNMENT TO TASK FOR FAILING TO PREVENT THE AMIA ATTACK AND NOT DOING MORE TO DISCOVER THE PERPETRATORS OF THE MARCH 1992 BOMBING OF ISRAEL'S EMBASSY IN BUENOS AIRES. END SUMMARY.

A NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING

2. ONE-HUNDRED-AND-FIFTY-THOUSAND PEOPLE FILLED THE THREE-SQUARE BLOCK PARK FACING THE ARGENTINE CONGRESS
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BUENOS 04836 01 OF 02 221913Z
FOR THE AFTERNOON SOLIDARITY DEMONSTRATION CALLED BY ARGENTINA'S LEADING JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS TO REPUDIATE THE JULY 18 BOMBING, ACCORDING TO MEDIA ESTIMATES. FLAGS ACROSS THE SQUARE AND ACROSS THE COUNTRY FLEW AT HALF STAFF AS THOUSANDS OF CHRISTIAN AND EVEN MOSLEM ARGENTINES JOINED A MULTITUDE OF SECULAR AND RELIGIOUS MEMBERS OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY, MANY DEFIANTLY WEARING YELLOW STARS OF DAVID ON THEIR CLOTHING. MEMBERS OF ARGENTINA'S GROWING KOREAN COMMUNITY APPEARED WITH PLACARDS CONDEMNING THE VIOLENCE. THE CROWD WAS SUBDUED BENEATH ITS ROOF OF MULTI-COLORED UMBRELLAS. THERE WAS NO APPLAUSE. THE ARGENTINE GENERAL CONFEDERATION OF LABOR CALLED FOR AN AFTERNOON WORKSTOPPAGE TO COMMEMORATE THE EVENT.

3. TEN BLOCKS AWAY, HUNDREDS OF SLICKER-CLAD RESCUE WORKERS CONTINUED THE NON-STOP EFFORT TO REMOVE RUBBLE FROM THE COLLAPSED AMIA BUILDING, IN WHAT NOW APPEARS A VAIN EFFORT TO RESCUE THE 70 OR SO PEOPLE BELIEVED TO STILL LIE BEHEATH THE RUINS. A STEADY RAIN LENT SOLEMNITY TO THE DEMONSTRATION AND HAMPERED RESCUE EFFORTS. LIVE TELEVISION COVERAGE OF THE DEMONSTRATION ALTERNATED WITH VIGNETTES OF THE RESCUE EFFORT AND CLOSE-UP SHOTS OF ORDINARY ARGENTINES GATHERED IN THE

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

SQUARE, MANY WITH TEARS STREAMING DOWN THEIR FACES. HUNDREDS OF SIGNS AND BANNERS FILLED THE SQUARE, INCLUDING A LARGE BILLBOARD BEARING THE DEMONSTRATION'S THEME "STAND UP TO TERROR: THE ONLY AUTHENTIC SOLIDARITY IS TRUE JUSTICE." OTHER SIGNS ALLUDED TO INDIVIDUAL BOMBING VICTIMS AND DEMANDED AN END TO THE KIND OF IMPUNITY THAT THE JULY 18 ATTACK SYMBOLIZES.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 BUENOS 04836 01 OF 02 221913Z

4. ON THE DAIS, A SOLEMN PRESIDENT MENEM AND JEWISH COMMUNITY LEADERS STOOD SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH ARCHBISHOP QUARRACHINO, THE PAPAL NUNCIO, FORMER PRESIDENT RAUL ALFONSIN, SEVERAL CABINET MINISTERS, OPPOSITION POLITICIANS, AND MENEM'S LEGAL AND TECHNICAL SECRETARY CARLOS CORACH -- THE HIGHEST RANKING JEWISH MEMBER OF THE GOVERNMENT. MENEM LOOKED ALMOST STUNNED BY THE PROTEST'S MAGNITUDE AS HE STEPPED ONTO THE PLATFORM. LARGE SECTION'S OF THE CROWD ROUNDLY BOOED MENEM WHEN THE MASTER OF CEREMONIES ANNOUNCED HIS PRESENCE.

THE MESSAGE - SOLIDARITY AND AN END TO IMPUNITY

5. MENEM, WITH HIS EYES DOWN-CAST, STOOD QUIETLY THROUGHOUT THE HOUR-LONG CEREMONY AND DID NOT ADDRESS THE GATHERING. AFTER THE CROWD SANG THE ARGENTINE AND ISRAELI ANTHEMS ARGENTINE GRAND RABBI SALOMON BEN HAMU RECITED THE HEBREW PRAYER FOR THE DEAD. AMIA PRESIDENT ALBERTO KRUPNIKOFF THEN SPOKE OF HATRED BRINGING SADNESS AND LAMENTED THE DESTRUCTION OF AMIA'S HOME IN ITS CENTENNIAL YEAR. HE RECALLED HIS GRANDFATHER'S ESCAPE FROM EUROPEAN PERSECUTION AND REMINDED HIS LISTENERS THAT HE AND OTHER JEWS ARE IN ARGENTINA "BECAUSE WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE." OSCAR

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

NNNN

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BUENOS 04836 02 OF 02 221913Z
ACTION SCT-03

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-17	ACDE-00	AID-01	ARA-01	A-01	CA-02
	CCO-00	CG-00	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	COME-00	CTME-00	OASY-00
	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	DS-00	EB-01	FAAE-00	FBIE-00
	FBO-01	H-01	IMMC-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	INSE-00	LAB-01
	L-01	ADS-00	M-00	NEA-01	NRCE-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OCS-06	OIS-01	OMB-01	OPR-01	PA-02	PM-00	PRS-01
	P-01	SNP-00	SP-00	SR-00	SSO-00	SS-00	TRSE-00
	T-00	USIE-00	USSS-00	ASDS-01	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-09
	G-00	/055W					

-----5F9DA4 222028Z /38

R 221913Z JUL 94
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1115
INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM//SCCC//
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 BUENOS AIRES 004836

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, PTER, ASEC, AR
SUBJECT: MASSIVE DEMONSTRATION REPUDIATES JULY 18
AMIA BOMBING IN BUENOS AIRES
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BUENOS 04836 02 OF 02 221913Z

HACKMAN, PRESIDENT OF THE ARGENTINE ZIONIST
ORGANIZATION (OSA), SPOKE NEXT, CONTRASTING THE
HOPEFUL MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS WITH THE BOMBING'S
"ATTACK ON HUMANITY." HE WAS FOLLOWED BY AN ISRAELI
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE WORLD ZIONIST ORGANIZATION, WHO
SPOKE BRIEFLY IN HEBREW. THE ISRAELI FOREIGN
MINISTRY'S DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR LATIN AMERICAN

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

AFFAIRS, DOV SCHMORAK, READ MESSAGES FROM PRIME MINISTER RABIN, WHO DESCRIBED THE AMIA BOMBING AS THE WORST INSTANCE OF ANTI-SEMITIC VIOLENCE SINCE THE END OF WORLD WAR II. A SIMILAR MESSAGE FROM ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER PERES URGED THE GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA TO INTENSIFY ITS EFFORTS TO FIND AND PUNISH THE AUTHORS OF THE TWO ATTACKS ON JEWISH ENTITIES IN BUENOS AIRES. ISRAELI AMBASSADOR ITZHAK AVIRAN REPUDIATED RESORTING TO VIOLENCE AS A RESPONSE TO VIOLENCE, AND CALLED FOR JUSTICE WITHOUT VENGEANCE FOR THE VICTIMS OF TERRORISM.

6. DAIA PRESIDENT RUBEN BERAJA GAVE THE KEYNOTE SPEECH. HE ADDRESSED HIS SOLEMN AND ELOQUENT REMARKS TO "MY BROTHER ARGENTINES," AND OPENLY CRITICIZED THE MENEM GOVERNMENT FOR ITS INABILITY THUS FAR TO APPREHEND THE AUTHORS OF THE ISRAELI EMBASSY BOMBING AND PREVENT ITS TRAGIC SEQUEL 28 MONTHS LATER. HE CITED THE AMIA BOMBING AS PROOF THAT INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM "HAD MADE A JOKE OF (ARGENTINE) SECURITY MEASURES" AND "SUBDUED AND SUBJECTED THE STATE." HE CALLED SECURITY AND PREVENTION MEASURES INADEQUATE, INSISTED ON A REHAUL OF GOVERNMENT SECURITY

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BUENOS 04836 02 OF 02 221913Z
INSTITUTIONS AND DEMANDED, IN THE NAME OF ALL ARGENTINES, RESULTS AND ANSWERS FROM THE ON-GOING INVESTIGATIONS OF THE TWO TERRORIST ATTACKS. WITH MENEM STANDING AT HIS SHOULDER, BERAJA ANSWERED THE PRESIDENT'S RHETORICAL QUESTION "WHY ARGENTINA?," BY SAYING THAT THE ANSWER LIES IN HIS OWN CRITIQUE. HE CALLED FOR "A BETTER ARGENTINA," WHERE SECURITY DOES NOT MEAN MERELY THE REPRESSION OF PROTEST AND DISSENT AND WHERE RESPECT FOR THE LAW EMBODIES A TRUE SENSE OF JUSTICE. HE ALLUDED TO ARGENTINE PARTICIPATION IN THE GULF WAR AND MENEM'S STRONGLY PRO-WESTERN POLICIES AND REFUTED THOSE WHO WOULD BLAME THE TWO ATTACKS ON THE CURRENT DIRECTION OF ARGENTINE FOREIGN POLICY. HE SAID ARGENTINES CANNOT AVOID TERRORIST ATTACKS BY TURNING THEIR BACKS ON THE WORLD, BUT MUST FIGHT THOSE WHO WOULD "BRING FEAR INTO OUR HOMES." "THIS IS A DOMESTIC MATTER," HE SAID. HE ADDED THAT AS A SOVEREIGN NATION ARGENTINA CANNOT YIELD TO FOREIGN PRESSURES. FINALLY, HE DEMANDED OF THE RULING PARTY AND THE OPPOSITION A UNIFIED EFFORT TO ELIMINATE TERROR AND MAKE ARGENTINE SOLIDARITY A REALITY.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

COMMENT

7. THE SOLIDARITY DEMONSTRATION APPEARED AT LEAST TWICE AS LARGE AS THE MARCH 1992 PROTEST AGAINST THE BOMBING OF THE ISRAELI EMBASSY. THE CROWD AT THE JULY 6 "FEDERAL MARCH" PALES BY COMPARISON. MENEM'S PRESENCE AT THE EVENT AND HIS DECISION NOT TO SPEAK ARE TESTIMONY BOTH TO HIS POLITICAL COURAGE, AND

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 BUENOS 04836 02 OF 02 221913Z
INSTINCT FOR SURVIVAL. MANY COMMENTATORS SPECULATED THAT HE WOULD DECLINE TO ATTEND. FOR MANY ARGENTINES, GATHERED IN FRONT OF CONGRESS OR WATCHING THE EVENT ON TELEVISION, THE OUTPOURING OF HUMANITY AND GRIEF WAS CATHARTIC. IT BROKE DOWN, IF ONLY BRIEFLY, SOCIAL BARRIERS THAT STILL SEPARATE MUCH OF ARGENTINA'S JEWISH COMMUNITY FROM THE MUCH LARGER -- AND LARGELY CATHOLIC -- MAJORITY. WHILE THE MAGNITUDE OF THE HUMAN SORROW PROVOKED BY THE AMIA BOMBING HAS OVERWHELMED ARGENTINA, THE SOLIDARITY DEMONSTRATION WILL LIKELY MARK THE START OF A HEALING PROCESS FOR ALL ARGENTINES, JEWS AND NON-JEWS ALIKE.
GODARD

UNCLASSIFIED

NNNN

UNCLASSIFIED